

Sarf

Sarf is the science of Classical Arabic which deals with:

1. patterns of vowelization which indicate tense of a verb
2. designated endings which reflect the *gender*, *plurality*, and *person* of the Subject (the one doing the verb)

Gender: There are two genders in Arabic: *Masculine* and *Feminine*. Unlike English, there is no neutral gender in Arabic. All nouns are masculine unless they are defined feminine, either by general agreement e.g. *Umm* (Mother), *shams* (Sun), or by the the ending **ة** which is called *ta marbuta*.

Plurality :In Arabic there are three ways of describing the number of nouns: *single*, *dual*, and *plural* (*more than 2*).

Person: Similar to English, there are three persons in Arabic: *1st*, *2nd*, and *3rd*

According to the above scheme the Subject of a verb can cause 18 (2 x 3 x 3) changes to the patterns of vowelization and designated endings of that verb. These are listed below:

3rd person Masculine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

3rd person Feminine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

2nd person Masculine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

2nd person Feminine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

1st person Masculine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

1st person Feminine Singular/Dual/Plural **3**

However, the 1st person Masculine Singular/Dual and 1st person Feminine Singular/Dual are condensed as one; thus, the total is reduced by 4, bringing it to 14. A complete listing of these is given in the table below (note: this is taken from page 20 of Hussain Abdul Sattar's Book, **Fundamentals of Classical Arabic**, available [here](#)).

PERSON	GENDER	PLURALITY	BASE		SUFFIX		ACTIVE VOICE
3rd	Masculine	Singular	فعل			⇒	فَعَلَ He/It (S/M) did
3rd	Masculine	Dual	فعل	+	ا	⇒	فَعَلَا They (D/M) did
3rd	Masculine	Plural	فعل	+	وا	⇒	فَعَلُوا ^{١٥} They (P/M) did
3rd	Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	ت	⇒	فَعَلَتْ She/It (S/F) did
3rd	Feminine	Dual	فعل	+	تا	⇒	فَعَلَتَا They (D/F) did
3rd	Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	ن	⇒	فَعَلْنَ They (P/F) did
2nd	Masculine	Singular	فعل	+	ت	⇒	فَعَلْتَ You (S/M) did
2nd	Masculine	Dual	فعل	+	تُما	⇒	فَعَلْتُمَا You (D/M) did
2nd	Masculine	Plural	فعل	+	تُمْ	⇒	فَعَلْتُمْ You (P/M) did
2nd	Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	تِ	⇒	فَعَلْتِ You (S/F) did
2nd	Feminine	Dual	فعل	+	تُما	⇒	فَعَلْتُمَا You (D/F) did
2nd	Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	تُنَّ	⇒	فَعَلْتُنَّ You (P/F) did
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular	فعل	+	تُ	⇒	فَعَلْتُ I did
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Plural	فعل	+	نَا	⇒	فَعَلْنَا We did

M=Masculine

F=Feminine

S=Singular

D=Dual

P=Plural

Sarf - Variations of the Past Tense

Until now we have seen how to conjugate verbs using the simple past tense e.g. *he ate, he helped, he did* etc. Now we will see how we can couple some words to the past tense verb and make it either *present perfect* e.g. *he has helped* or *past perfect* e.g. *he had helped*.

Sticking the word **قد** in front of a past tense verb makes it *present perfect*. Thus, **قد** denotes actions

which have just been completed e.g. *he has helped, he has done, he has read* etc. Note that **قد** is a **حرف**

(i.e. a *particle*) so it does *not* change its form with the changing form of the verb. As an example, **نَصَرَ**

means *he helped* and **قد نَصَرَ** means *he has helped*. The significance of this will become clear when we

deal with the next section about making past perfect tense. One more thing to note is that you cannot

attach a **ما** in front of **قد** to negate it: this construction is *not* allowed in Arabic.

If we add **كان** in front of a past tense verb the verb becomes *past perfect*. Thus, **كان** denotes actions

which have been completed in distant past. However, **كان** is a verb, just like **فَعَلَ**, so it will also change

its form when coupled with the past tense verb. The following table shows how this is done:

كَانَ نَصَرَ	He had helped
كَانَا نَصَرَا	They (2 males) had helped
كَانُوا نَصَرُوا	They (many males) had helped
كَانَتْ نَصَرَتْ	She had helped
كَانَتَا نَصَرَتَا	They (2 females) had helped
كُنَّ نَصَرْنَ	They (many females) had helped
كُنْتَ نَصَرْتَ	You (1 male) had helped

كُنْتُمْ نَصَرْتُمْ	You (2 males) had helped
كُنْتُمْ نَصَرْتُمْ	You (many males) had helped
كُنْتَ نَصَرْتَ	You (1 female) had helped
كُنْتُمْ نَصَرْتُمْ	You (2 females) had helped
كُنْتُنَّ نَصَرْتُنَّ	You (many females) had helped
كُنْتُ نَصَرْتُ	I had helped
كُنَّا نَصَرْنَا	We had helped

The negation of this conjugation is constructed simply by adding a **مَا** in front of it. Also, the passive voice for this conjugation is constructed the same way as before: *dhamma* on the first letter, *kasra* on the second last letter.

Sarf - المضارع - The Present and Future Tense

مُضَارِع is the tense in Arabic which conveys the meaning of both present (simple and continuous) and future tenses. The context and situation of the usage will determine which of the above three are meant to be conveyed. It is what is called the *Imperfect* tense in English i.e. the action is either going on or is still to start.

Unlike the ماضى , the مُضَارِع is peculiar in its nature because it is characterized by the presence of one of the 4 letters, namely ا , ت , ي , ن (hamza, taa, ya'a, nun) at the start of a word . Thus a مُضَارِع verb will have one of these 4 letters as a prefix. Plus, unlike the ماضى, the endings of مُضَارِع verbs do not follow a set pattern but are rather based on loose groupings. Mentioned below are the prefix and suffix rules for the 14 conjugations:

Prefix Rules:

1. **Conjugation** 1,2,3, and 6 will have ي as prefix
2. **Conjugations** 4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12 will have ت as a prefix
3. **Conjugation** 13 will have ا as a prefix
4. **Conjugation** 14 will have ن as a prefix

Suffix Rules:

1. 5 conjugations will have no suffix at all i.e. the last letter of the word will be the base letter of

the verb. These are conjugations 1,4,7, 13, and 14

2. 9 conjugations are further subdivided into 4 groups:

- The 4 duals (3rd person *Dual* Masculine/Feminine, 2nd person *Dual*

Masculine/Feminine) will have an ending consisting of an **الف** followed by a **ن** with a

kasra e.g. **تَفْعَلَانِ** . These are conjugations 2,5,8, and 11

- The 2 Masculine Plural Conjugations, number 3 and 9, will end in **ونَ** i.e. **و** preceded by

a *dhamma* and succeeded by a **ن** with a *fatha* e.g. **يَفْعُلُونَا**

- The 2 Feminine Plural Conjugations, number 6 and 12, will end with a *sukun* on the

laam position of the verb followed by a **ن** with a *fatha*

- The 2nd person *Singular* Feminine, conjugation number 10, has the suffix **ينَ** i.e. a *yaa*

saakin plus a **ن** with a *fathae*.g. **تَفْعَلِينَ**

The Table below lists all these

يَفْعَلُ	He does
يَفْعَلَانِ	They (Dual, Male) do
يَفْعَلُونَ	They (Plural, Male) do
تَفْعَلُ	She does
تَفْعَلَانِ	They (Dual, Female) do
يَفْعَلْنَ	They (Plural, Female) do
تَفْعَلُ	You (Singular, Male) do
تَفْعَلَانِ	You (Dual, Male) do
تَفْعَلُونَ	You (Plural, Male) do
تَفْعَلِينَ	You (Singular, Female) do

تَفْعَلَانِ	You (Dual, Female) do
تَفْعَلْنَ	You (Plural, Female) do
أَفْعَلُ	I do
نَفْعَلُ	We do

The passive voice for the مُضَارِع is constructed by:

1. Putting a *fatha* on the second last letter (if not already a *fatha*)
2. Adding a *dhamma* to the prefix

Thus, يَنْصُرُ becomes يُنْصَرُ (he is helped, he is being helped, or he will be helped).

Adding لَا in front of both active and passive voice of the مُضَارِع will negate it

Sarf - Variations of المضارع

Welcome back to صرف, finally! After a long haul with نحو we are back in the domain of صرف. Insha

Allah I will explain some of the variations which can occur with المضارع (the present and future tense verb) and how the grammatical structure and meaning of the verb will change with these variations.

There are two حرف (particles) which will combine with the المضارع to change it to a negative verb: لن and لم. Each of these imparts a slightly different meaning to the resulting verb and each of them will cause the original verb to have different endings as well.

1. لن : Adding لن to المضارع will negate it and will restrict it to the *future* tense. Remember here that

we had earlier said that المضارع covers both present and future. So now we know how to talk

about just about the future! Finally, when لن negates the المضارع an element of emphasis is added

to the negation. Thus, لن يَنْصُرَ means *he will never help* and لن يُنْصَرَ means *he will*

never be helped.

2. لم : Adding لم to المضارع will negate it and will remove all notions of present and future tense from

the verb, thus rendering it back into past! This might seem a little odd since we already have the

الماضي (past tense) with us and we have already seen that we can negate it by using ما. So why

exactly do we need to stick لم in front of المضارع to construct what we already have? The

difference here is rather subtle: If your listeners have no previous knowledge of an event occurring and you want to say that the event did not happen (meaning you are simply informing them of the action not occurring) then you would use **مَا** ; on the other hand if you are speaking to someone who has incorrect knowledge of the event and believes that the event *did* occur whereas the event *did* not occur then you would use **لَمْ**. So **مَا نَصَرَ** is simple negation whereas **لَمْ يَنْصُرْ** has the element of *rejection* in it. One way of putting this is to say that **لَمْ** is used when arguing with someone.

Rules for Conjugating المضارع + لن :

1. The 5 conjugations which ended in *dhamma* will now end in *fatha*
2. Out of the remaining 9 all except the two feminine plurals will lose their final ن
3. The two feminine plurals will *not* undergo any change

He will never do	لَنْ يَفْعَلَ
They (2 males) will never do	لَنْ يَفْعَلَا
They (group of males) will never do	لَنْ يَفْعَلُوا
She will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ
She (2 females) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا
She (group of females) will never do	لَنْ يَفْعَلْنَ
You (male) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ
You (2 males) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا
You (group of males) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلُوا
You (female) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلِي

You (2 females) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا
You (group of females) will never do	لَنْ تَفْعَلْنَ
I will never do	لَنْ أَفْعَلَ
We will never do	لَنْ نَفْعَلَ

Rules for Conjugating المضارع + لم :

1. The 5 conjugations which ended in *dhamma* will now end in *sukun*
2. Out of the remaining 9 all except the two feminine plurals will lose their final ن
3. The two feminine plurals will *not* undergo any change

He did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلْ
They (2 males) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلَا
They (group of males) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلُوا
She did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْ
She (2 females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا
She (group of females) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلْنَ
You (male) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْ
You (2 males) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا
You (group of males) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا
You (female) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلِيْ
You (2 females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا
You (group of females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْنَ
I did not do	لَمْ أَفْعَلْ
We did not do	لَمْ نَفْعَلْ

Two final points:

1. The passive of the لَنْ construct is built by switching the *fatha* on the first letter to a *dhamma* e.g.

لَنْ يَفْعَلَ becomes لَنْ يُفْعَلَ , and so on

2. The passive of the **لم** construct is built by switching the *fatha* on the first letter to a *dhamma*

e.g. لَمْ يَفْعَلْ becomes لَمْ يُفْعَلْ , and so on

Sarf - More variations of المضارع

Here we go! We are now back dealing with المضارع . In this post we will deal with some more variations of the future tense. In a previous [post](#) I had explained how المضارع , which encompasses both present and future tense in Arabic, can be limited to future tense only. However, recall that at that time we had done this by *negating* the verb. In this post, Insha Allah, I will show how to do the same without negating the verb i.e. how to say *he will help, she will help* etc. Secondly, I will also talk about the *imperative* for المضارع i.e. how to say *verily he will help, verily you will help* etc.

Simple Future Tense: This is built by simply adding a س or سَوْفَ in front of each conjugation of المضارع verb; this will restrict the tense to future. Thus, يَفْعَلُ becomes سَيَفْعَلُ (or سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ) and so on. That's it! There is nothing more to building a simple future tense verb in Arabic, so we will move onto our next variation.

Emphatic Future Tense: This one is *not* going to be as easy as the three-liner above. 😊 To build the emphatic for المضارع not only do we have add a ل in front of it (with a *fatha*), but the endings of the verb change as well. More specifically, a ن is added at the end of the verb. It is interesting to note that this ن can be in a مُشَدَّد (i.e. with a *shadda* on it) form or in the ساكِن (i.e. with a *sukun* on it) form. The former is called ن ثَقِيلَة and the latter is called ن خَفِيفَة , literally meaning *heavy nun* and *light nun*, respectively.

In terms of meaning the two endings do not differ, except in their tone. Thus one may be picked up over the other to satisfy complex poetry rules or when giving sermons. Meaning wise, there is no difference between the two conjugations, be they are formed from ن ثقيلة or ن خفيفة . Let us now see how these conjugations are formed:

1. The five singulars will have there ending *dhamma* changed to a *fatha* and the final ن , either مُشَدَّد or ساكن , will added. Thus, يَفْعَلُ becomes كَيْفَعَلَنَّ . Please see table below for full listing of conjugations. Also note that there is a *fatha* on ل (just before the final ن ثقيلة . The reason for this will become obvious as I explain the conjugation change for the two plural masculines (see bullet #3 below)
2. The four duals, which already have a ن at the end, will have this ن dropped so that we do not end up having three ن when we attach a ن ثقيلة or ن خفيفة to the end of the conjugations. Moreover, the final ن will have a *kasra* on it
3. The two masculine plurals (تَفْعَلُونَ and يَفْعَلُونَ) and the second person feminine singular (تَفْعَلِينَ) will have their و and ى dropped and either ن ثقيلة or ن خفيفة will be added with a *kasra* on it.

Now imagine what would have happened had we *not* changed the *dhamma* on يَفْعَلُ to a *fatha* when forming the emphatic conjugation: the final form then would have been كَيْفَعَلَنَّ . But this is *also* the form which we get when we transform the third person masculine plural to the emphatic

conjugation! Therefore, to avoid confusion, the *dhamma* on the third person masculine singular

يَفْعَلُ is changed to a *fatha* when forming the future emphatic. Conversely, the *dhamma* on the

two masculine plurals which remains there in the emphatic conjugation is an indication of the

dropped و . Similarly, the *kasra* on the second person feminine singular future emphatic form is

an indication of the dropped ي

4. Nothing will drop from the two plural feminines. However, to ease pronunciation, an *الف* is

inserted between the original final ن and the emphatic-forming ن ثقيلة or ن خفيفة

Verily he will do	لَيَفْعَلَنَّ
Verily they (2 males) will do	لَيَفْعَلَانَّ
Verily they (group of males) will do	لَيَفْعَلُنَّ
Verily she will do	لَتَفْعَلَنَّ
Verily they (2 females) will do	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ
Verily they (group of females) will do	لَيَفْعَلْنَانَّ
Verily You (male) will do	لَتَفْعَلَنَّ
Verily you (2 males) will do	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ
Verily you (group of males) will do	لَتَفْعَلُنَّ
Verily you (females) will do	لَتَفْعَلِنَّ
Verily you (2 females) will do	لَتَفْعَلَانَّ
Verily you (group of females) will do	لَتَفْعَلْنَانَّ
Verily I will do	لَأَفْعَلَنَّ
Verily we will do	لَتَفْعَلَنَّ

Notes:

1. An example of ن خفيفة conjugation is: لَيَفْعَلْنَ
2. There are 6 less conjugation in the خفيفة tables than there are in the ثقيلة tables. This is because the ن خفيفة is *not* attached to those conjugations which end in an الف (the four duals and the two feminine plurals). Thus, rules 2 and 4 do not apply to the خفيفة tables

Sarf - The Command Verb: constructing the امر

The command verb, or the امر , is different from other verb conjugations previously covered in the sense that a command is usually directed *towards* a second person e.g *eat!* or *stop!*; thus, the construction of 2nd person command verb in Arabic is different from that of other conjugations of the same. Also, at first, it seems rather odd that we can even have a command verb in 1st or 3rd person conjugations. However, examples like *He must eat!* and *They must abstain!* do give us good examples of command verbs in persons other than second.

Based on the above information we see that the 2nd person active command verb requires special attention. In fact, it's construction rules are a bit different than those of 1st & 3rd person active command verb. Below I give the general rules which govern the construction of active voice command verbs in Arabic:

1. 2nd Person Active Command verb - constructed using active verb of the مضارع and applying 3

specific steps

2. 1st & 3rd person active & passive and 2nd person passive - constructed using the endings of the لم

table and attaching لام of امر in front of each conjugation

Insha Allah we will see now how these rules are applied in practice.

As a first step we divide the لم table into two sections - 2nd person (left side) and 3rd & 1st persons (right side):

You (male) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْ	He did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلْ
You (2 males) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا	They (2 males) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلَا
You (group of males) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا	They (group of males) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلُوا
You (female) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلِي	She did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْ
You (2 females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا	She (2 females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلَا
You (group of females) did not do	لَمْ تَفْعَلْنَ	She (group of females) did not do	لَمْ يَفْعَلْنَ
		I did not do	لَمْ أَفْعَلْ
		We did not do	لَمْ نَفْعَلْ

Constructing the 1st Person / 3rd Person Active command verb:

1. Attach a **لَمْ** with a *kasra* in front of each conjugation and keep the endings exactly as those in

the **لَمْ** table. This rule also applies to the passive construction. Here I will only give examples of

the active voice:

He must do!	لَفْعَلْ
They (2 males) must do!	لَفْعَلَا
They (group of males) must do!	لَفْعَلُوا
She must do!	لَفْعَلْ
She (2 females) must do!	لَفْعَلَا
She (group of females) must do!	لَفْعَلْنَ
I must do!	لَأَفْعَلْ
We must do!	لَفْعَلْ

Constructing the 2nd Person Active command verb:

These conjugations are constructed from the **مضارع** verb as outlined below:

1. Remove the sign of **مضارع** i.e. **ت** from the verb

2. After removing the sign of مضارع if the next letter (i.e. the ف position) has a vowel on it then simply make the last letter of the remaining word *sakin* and use the endings from the لم table .

An example of this kind would be تَقَبَّلْ Since the second letter already has a *fathah* on it therefore the command verb would be تَقَبَّلْ

3. After removing the sign of مضارع if the next letter is *sakin* then it cannot be pronounced since words need to start with a vowel (*dhamma, fatha, kasra*). In this case, we add a *hamza* (ء) in front of the word to aid pronunciation, and then look at the ع position of the word: if this letter has a *dhamma* then we put a *dhamma* on the *hamza* which is at the front of the word. However, if this letter has either a *fathah* or a *kasra* we put a *kasrah* on the *hamza*. Examples of this construction are:

• أَنْصُرْ which changes to اُنْصُرْ

4. اِضْرِبْ which changes to اضْرِبْ

5. اِسْمَعْ which changes to اسمعْ

A complete listing of the 2nd Person Active command verb is given below. Note that the endings remain that of the لم table:

You (male) do!	اِفْعَلْ
You (2 males) do!	اِفْعَلَا

You (group of males) do!	إِفْعَلُواْ
You (female) do!	إِفْعَلِيْ
You (2 females) do!	إِفْعَلَاْ
You (group of females) do!	إِفْعَلْنَ

The Emphatic Command :

In addition to saying *He must do!* we can also give an emphatic command: *Verily, he must do!*, which is the addition of emphasis to the command verb. Since we know that emphasis in Arabic can be achieved either by using *ن ثَقِيْلَة* or *ن خَفِيْفَة* , therefore we can have command verb conjugations in the emphatic form. The table below lists these conjugations for the active voice. Notice that the endings are exactly those of the emphatic table and that the *لام* of *امر* (with a *kasra*) replaces the *لام* with a *fatha* at the start in the 3rd and 1st person conjugations (and also in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person passive conjugations). Plus, the 2nd person active conjugations still start with *ا ف*

ن ثَقِيْلَة conjugations for the command verb:

Verily [You (male)] do!	فَعِلْ	Verily he must do!	لِيَفْعَلْ
Verily [you (2 males)] do!	فَعِلَا	Verily they (2 males) must do!	لِيَفْعَلَا
Verily [you (group of males)] do!	فَعِلْنَ	Verily they (group of males) must do!	لِيَفْعَلْنَ
Verily [you (female)] do!	فَعِلِي	Verily she must do!	لَتَفْعَلِي
Verily [you (2 females)] do!	فَعِلَا	Verily they (2 females) must do!	لَتَفْعَلَا
Verily [you (group of females)] do!	فَعِلْنَ	Verily they (group of females) must do!	لِيَفْعَلْنَ
		Verily I must do!	لَا فَعِلْ
		Verily we must do!	لَنَفْعَلْ

ن خفيفة conjugations for the command verb:

Verily [You (male)] do!	فَعَلْ مَنْ	Verily he must do!	لِيَفْعَلْ مَنْ
Verily [you (2 males)] do!		Verily they (2 males) must do!	
Verily [you (group of males)] do!	فَعَلْ مَنْ	Verily they (group of males) must do!	لِيَفْعَلْ مَنْ
Verily [you (female)] do!	فَعَلْ مَنْ	Verily she must do!	لِيَفْعَلْ مَنْ
Verily [you (2 females)] do!		Verily they (2 females) must do!	
Verily [you (group of females)] do!		Verily they (group of females) must do!	
		Verily I must do!	لَا فَعَلْ مَنْ
		Verily we must do!	لِيَفْعَلْ مَنْ

Sarf - ابواب الافعال - Introduction to Verb Groupings

Up until now we have been dealing with just one type of the base verb i.e. **فَعَلَ**. However, this is not the only way a base verb can occur in Arabic. In fact, the **ماضى** verb (and consequently the **مُضارع** verb) can occur in several different *patterns* depending upon the vowelling and number of letters in the base verb. In this post, I will, Insha Allah, explain about different patterns of Arabic verbs along with some of their examples.

To start with, we may be tempted to assume that any two verbs which have the same voice, same tense, and the same conjugation number will look alike and will rhyme with one another. However, this is not the case as can be seen by looking at the following 3 examples:

1. **نَصَرَ**

2. **سَمِعَ**

3. **دَهَرَجَ**

The first verb, **نَصَرَ** (to help), rhymes with **فَعَلَ** and has the same number of letters as **فَعَلَ**.

The second verb, **سَمِعَ** (to hear), although having the same number of letters as **فَعَلَ**, does *not*

rhyme with it due to a *kasra* on the middle letter. Finally, the last verb, **دَهَرَجَ** (to roll), does not

rhyme with فَعَلَ , and also has 4 letters in it, rather than 3. As a rule of thumb, differences in Arabic

verbs can occur due to one of 6 reasons:

- 3 of these reasons relate to number of letters in the base verb and its vowelling pattern
- 3 of these reasons relate to irregularities. These have nothing to do with number of base letters

or the vowelling pattern of the verb. Rather, these difference in verbs are introduced by the

presence of certain letters e.g. و , ي , ء

In this post I will deal with the first 3 rules which can be stated into the following expanded categories:

1. Difference in number of base letters of a verb
2. Difference in the way the verb is enhanced
3. Difference in the ع position vowelling of a verb

The minimum number of letters in a base verb is 3 and the maximum is 4. Each one of these two sets of verbs may comprise of only base letters (i.e. without any enhancement) or they may have addition of non-base, or extra, letters (i.e. enhanced), which provides us with 4 distinct verb groupings:

1. Verbs with 3 base letters which are not enhanced, called ثَلَاثِي مُجَرَّد e.g. نَصَرَ
2. Verbs with 3 base letters which are enhanced, called ثَلَاثِي مُزِيد فِيهِ e.g. أَكْرَمَ
3. Verbs with 4 base letters which are not enhanced, called رُبَاعِي مُجَرَّد e.g. دَهَرَجَ
4. Verbs with 4 base letters which are enhanced, called رُبَاعِي مُزِيد فِيهِ e.g. اِطْمَعَنَّ

On top of this, verbs can differ in the way the vowel appears on the ع position. Using the ثَلَاثِي مُجَرَّد

form of ماضِي and switching the vowel on the ع position, we get 3 distinct patterns:

1. فَعَلَ
2. فَعِلَ

3. فَعْلَ

For each of these patterns of a مُجرّد ثلاثي verb, there will exist 3 corresponding مُضارع patterns with their own vowelling patterns, giving us 9 patterns in total which are listed in the table below:

#	مُضارع	ماضي
1	يَفْعَلُ	فَعَلَ
2	يَفْعِلُ	فَعَلَ
3	يَفْعُلُ	فَعَلَ
4	يَفْعَلُ	فَعِلَ
5	يَفْعِلُ	فَعِلَ
6	يَفْعُلُ	فَعِلَ
7	يَفْعَلُ	فَعُلَ
8	يَفْعِلُ	فَعُلَ
9	يَفْعُلُ	فَعُلَ

The patterns 6, 7, and 8 *do not* exist in the Arabic Language, which means that you will never find a

مُجرّد ثلاثي verb based on this pattern of vowelling. As for the remaining 6, each pattern is called a

باب (*door*) and can be defined as an *etymological grouping which arises due to a difference in number*

of letters or the ع position vowelling in **both** ماضي and مُضارع patterns of a verb. Every مُجرّد ثلاثي

verb in Arabic will follow *exactly one* of these patterns. To ease memorization of these ابواب the

scholars of صرف have picked up the most widely used example from each of them and have named the

باب after it. These are listed in the following table in their order of popularity:

#	مُضَارِع	ماضى
1	يَنْصُرُ	نَصَرَ
2	يَضْرِبُ	ضَرَبَ
3	يَسْمَعُ	سَمِعَ
4	يَفْتَحُ	فَتَحَ
5	يَكْرُمُ	كَرَّمَ
6	يَحْسِبُ	حَسَبَ

I post here another way of remembering these ابواب , courtesy of [IANT](#)



The ثلاثي مزيد فيه ابواب :

Enhancement to verbs can be done in various ways: duplication of the ع position e.g. < عَلِمَ -

عَلَّمَ (to know -> to teach), or adding a *hamzah*, called *همزة الوصل* (or the *enabling hamza*, which is

added to ease pronunciation), at the front of the verb. This can be noticed with the *ثلاثي مزيد فيه* which

has 14 ابواب, out of which 5 do not have the enabling *hamzah* in front of them and all of these 5 are

popular. The rest of the 9 have the enabling *hamza* in front of them and only 3 are popular from among

theses nine. The 5 ابواب of *ثلاثي مزيد فيه* without the *همزة الوصل* are given in the table below:

#	مُضَارِع	ماضى
1	يُكْرِمُ	أَكْرَمَ
2	يُصَرِّفُ	صَرَّفَ

3	يُقَامِلُ	قَاتِل
4	يَتَقَابَلُ	تَقَابَل
5	يَتَقَابَلُ	تَقَابَل

I hope that this very brief introduction to ابواب الافعال will be a good starting point for further learning of this vast field of صرف . Insha Allah, I will write more about this topic once we go through it in the course.

هفت اقسام - Categories of Irregular Verbs - Sarf

We have already [seen](#) how variations in verb patterns in the Arabic Language can take place due to 6 reasons, 3 of which deal with a difference in the number of base letters and the vowel pattern of the verb. In this post I will give a listing of the other 3 reasons with an example of each, Insha Allah.

These 3 are related to irregularities i.e the presence of certain letters within the verb. Following is a list of these irregularities :

- The presence of a همزة
- The presence of a weak letter i.e. a واو or a ياء
- The last two base-letters being the same letter i.e. a doubled letter (حرف مشدد)

Based on the presence or absence of one of these reasons the scholars of *Sarf* have divided the Arabic

verbs in 7 categories, or to give the Persian term for it, in هفت اقسام

Type name	Characteristic	Example
صحيح	No weak letters;no duplication of letters	نَصَرَ , كَرُمَ
مهموز	أ anywhere in the base verb	قَرَأَ , سَأَلَ , أَكَلَ
مثال	واو or ياء at the front	وَعَدَ , يَسُرُّ
أجوف	واو or ياء at the ع position	قَوْلَ , بَيْعَ
ناقص	واو or ياء at the ل position	رَمَى , دَعَا
لَيف	Two weak letters in the verbs	وَقَى , طَوَى
مضاعف	Second and third letter same	مَرَّ , فَرَّ

Category 3, 4, 5, and 6 all involve a واو or a ياء and verbs falling under these categories are collectively called معتل .

This brief introduction is a prelude to the vast part of *Sarf* which deals with irregularities in Arabic verbs. I will, Insha Allah, post more detail about each of these categories in the near future.

أجوف - The Irregular Verb - Sarf

In the [last](#) post we learned about the 7 categories into which Arabic verbs can be grouped and then we saw how introduction of weak letters can cause verbs to become irregular i.e. cause their conjugations to differ from the normal conjugations of regular verbs. Now we will, Insha Allah, start going into details of each of the verb categories which deal with irregular verbs. Our first post deals with أجوف which, as you may recall, is a verb having واو or ياء at the ع position.

أجوف verbs in Arabic Language come from either one of the 3 baabs: ضَرَبَ, نَصَرَ, or سَمِعَ .

Thus , قَالَ comes from the نَصَرَ baab, بَاعَ comes from ضَرَبَ baab, and خَافَ comes from سَمِعَ baab. The very first thing when dealing with irregular verbs is to find the *actual* base letters in it. Remember, irregular verbs are called irregular since one or more of their base letters have either changed to some other letter or have dropped altogether due, mainly, to pronunciation issues. We will now see how we can find the base letters in أجوف verbs and during this exercise we will come up with a rule to form irregular verbs in this category starting from their base letter.

The base letter in an irregular verb can be found by:

1. Looking at nouns formed from these verbs
2. Looking at the مُضارع of the irregular verb

Exposure to Arabic Language leads us to the fact that the 3 nouns formed from ضَرَبَ and قَالَ, and

بَاعَ are قول(a saying), بيع(a transaction or a sale), and خوف(fear), respectively. Also, as we will learn

shortly, the مضارع of the three verbs also contain واو

in its middle. Thus, we can now derive the original verbs using this fact and the knowledge of *baab* from which each verb comes.

Original Form	Final Form
قَوْلَ	قَالَ
بَيْعَ	بَاعَ
خَوْفَ	خَافَ

Now we are ready to state our rule for dealing with active voice of the ماضى of أَجَوَفَ .

Simple Change to Alif rule (Active ماضى) :

Whenever there is a مَفْتُوح weak letter i.e. a واو or a ياء preceded by a

the واو or ياء to alif.

As you can see that this rule completely covers the conjugation given in the table above.

Now I will list the ماضى table for قَالَ which will throw up some more light on the treatment of أَجَوَفَ

قَالَ	He said
قَالَا	They (two males) said
قَالُوا	They (more than two males)said
قَالَتْ	She said
قَالَتَا	They (two females) said
قَالْنَّ	They (more than two females)said

قُلْتُ	You (male) said
قُلْتُمَا	You (two males) said
قُلْتُمْ	You (more than 2 males) said
قُلْتُ	You (female) said
قُلْتُمَا	You(2 females) said
قُلْتُنَّ	You(more than 2 females) said
قُلْتُ	I said
قُلْنَا	We said

Note the loss of *alif* from 6th conjugation onwards. Also, note the change from *fatha* to *dhamma*. The *alif* is dropped because it is not easy to pronounce an *alif* followed by a سَاكِن letter because of the introduction of an unnecessary مَد. The *dhamma* is introduced as a trace for the fact that it was a واو which dropped from the verb. Similarly for بَيَعَ the 6th conjugation would be بَيْعَتْ , with the first letter having a *kasra* (and onwards to the last conjugation) signifying that the dropped letter was a ياء .

For خَافَ , however, this simple rule does not apply in totality. The 6th conjugation here is خِيفَنْ rather than خُفَنْ , which one would expect. This is explained by the fact that in the case of خِيفَنْ the *kasra* signifies that the verb is مَكْسُورُ الْعَيْنِ (has a *kasra* on the ع position) because خَافَ originates from the سَمِعَ baab, therefore its middle letter has to have a *kasra* on it. In this case we do get a hint as to which letter was dropped.

To deal with the passive voice we recognize that the following are the starting points for the above

mentioned 3 verbs:

Original Form	Final Form
قُولَ	قِيلَ
بُيعَ	بِيعَ
خُوفَ	خِيفَ

Using the above table we can state the following rule for the passive ماضى of the أجوف type:

Whenever the ع position of a passive ماضى is a واو or ياء remove the vowel from the letter before it and transfer the kasra to this letter. Now, if the ع position is a واو change it to a ياء in accordance with the ميزان rule, which states that any واو which is ساكن and is preceded by a kasra will change to ياء

Note: 6th conjugation onwards the conjugations are same for both active and passive voice for the أجوف type

The مضارع for the أجوف type:

These come from the صحيح counterparts of the corresponding verb which means that the originals will rhyme with the corresponding baabs. The following table list the مضارع for the أجوف.

باب	أجوف for the مضارع
يَنْصُرُ	يَقُولُ
يَضْرِبُ	يَبِيعُ
يَسْمَعُ	يَخُوفُ

As is the case with the ماضى of the أجوف, changes occur in the final forms of these verbs due to

presence of weak letters. These changes are given below:

Original Form	Final Form
يَقُولُ	يَقُولُ
يَبِيعُ	يَبِيعُ
يَخُوفُ	يَخَافُ

These changes are governed by the following rule:

Whenever there is a مُتَحَرِّك weak letter i.e. a واو or a ياء preceded by a سُكُون , transfer the vowel from the weak letter to the letter before it. Now, if vowel being transferred is a fatha then change this letter to an alif.

This rule can conveniently be called:

Transfer the vowel - in case of fatha change to alif Rule

Below, I give the full conjugations for the مُضَارِع for the أَجَوَف using يَقُولُ as an example:

يَقُولُ	He says
يَقُولَانِ	They (two males) say
يَقُولُونَ	They (more than two males) say
تَقُولُ	She says
تَقُولَانِ	They (two females) say
يَقُلْنَ	They (more than two females) say
تَقُولُ	You (male) say
تَقُولَانِ	You (two males) say
تَقُولُونَ	You (more than 2 males) say

تَقُولِينَ	You (female) say
تَقُولَانِ	You(2 females) say
تَقُولْنَ	You(more than 2 females) say
أَقُولُ	I say
نَقُولُ	We say

Hopefully this brief introduction to أَجَوَفَ will be a good starting point for understanding irregularities in Arabic verbs, Insha Allah.

Sarf - The Irregular Verb - ناقص - Part 1

Disclaimer: This post is due to a major contribution from Humairah (blogging [here](#)). Any mistakes, of course, are mine.

As we have already [learned](#), ناقص verb is one which has و or ى at its لام position. For the purpose of

illustration we will take three examples of a ناقص verb: دَعَا (he called), which comes from

رَمَى (he threw), which comes from ضَرَبَ baab, and رَضِيَ (he was pleased), which

comes from سَمِعَ baab. In this post I will, Insha Allah, deal with the ماضى conjugations of the

ناقص verb.

ناقص of ماضى:

Below, I will list the ماضى conjugations for both دَعَا and رَمَى. Note that the تَعْلِيل only occurs in the

first 5 conjugations of both these verbs. I will Insha Allah also explain why the تَعْلِيل occurs in each

case. We will deal with رَضِيَ separately later in this post, Insha Allah.

1	دَعَا	رَمَى
2	دَعَوْا	رَمَوْا
3	دَعَوُا	رَمَوْا
4	دَعَتْ	رَمَتْ
5	دَعَتَا	رَمَتَا
6	دَعَوْنَ	رَمَيْنَ

7	رَمَيْتَ	دَعَوْتَ
8	رَمَيْتُمَا	دَعَوْتُمَا
9	رَمَيْتُمْ	دَعَوْتُمْ
10	رَمَيْتَ	دَعَوْتَ
11	رَمَيْتُمَا	دَعَوْتُمَا
12	رَمَيْتُنَّ	دَعَوْتُنَّ
13	رَمَيْتُ	دَعَوْتُ
14	رَمَيْنَا	دَعَوْنَا

In the Arabic Language certain pronunciation issues arise when weak letters are preceded by

inappropriate vowels. For example, it is difficult to pronounce a و which is مُتَحَرِّكٌ and is preceded

by a ضَمَّة or a ي which is مُتَحَرِّكٌ and is preceded by a فَتْحَة. In such cases we implement

rules which change these weak letters to other, pronounceable, letters coupled with a shift in the vowel

itself from one letter to another. Thus, for تَعْلِيلٌ to occur the و or ي need to be مُتَحَرِّكٌ and need

to be preceded by inappropriate vowels.

On the other hand, a و which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a ضَمَّة is very normal; similarly a ي

which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a كَسْرَة is very normal. Moreover, a و or ي preceded by a

فَتْحَة is also considered normal for pronunciation. Now, if you note that in the above table there is no

تَعْلِيلٌ from the 6th conjugation downwards because in there the و or ي is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by

a normal vowel i.e. a فَتْحَة.

First conjugation: [Recall](#) that whenever a و or ي is preceded by a letter with a فَتْحَة on it the و or ي is

changed to ا; thus, the first conjugation was actually دَعَوَ which changed into دَعَا due to the simple change to *alif* rule. The same is true for رَمَى which was initially رَمَى

Second conjugation: This should actually be دَعَوَا rhyming with فَعَلَا . However, the simple change to *alif* rule will cause it to become دَعَا which is difficult to pronounce and thus the final *alif* will drop leaving us with دَعَا . Note that this is exactly the same as the first conjugation so there is actually no تَعْلِيل allowed here. Thus the final form remains دَعَوَا

Third conjugation: Rhyming with فَعَلُوا this should be دَعَوُوا . The first و changes to ا due to the simple change to *alif* rule, leaving us with دَعَاوَا . This form, however, has two سَاكِن letters coming together in it therefore we drop the first ا leaving us with دَعَوَا

Fourth Conjugation: This was originally دَعَوْتُ rhyming with فَعَلْتُ . The و changed to ا causing it to become دَعَاْتُ . Because of the gathering of سَاكِن letters the ا is dropped leaving us with دَعْتُ

Fifth Conjugation: This was originally دَعَوْتَا rhyming with فَعَلْتَا . The و changed to ا giving us دَعَاْتَا . It is important to note here that in this last form the ت is actually سَاكِن but has to carry a فَتْحَة because of the final ا which is the pronoun of duality. Thus the ا in the middle will drop

because of gathering of two ساكِن letters leaving us with دَعَتَا

All the above rules can be equally applied to the first five conjugation of the رَمَى table.

As for رَضِيَ the only تَعْلِيل is in the 3rd conjugation, all other rhyming with the

corresponding conjugations of سَمِعَ

1	رَضِيَ
2	رَضِيَا
3	رَضُوا
4	رَضَيْتَ
5	رَضَيْتَا
6	رَضَيْنَ
7	رَضَيْتَ
8	رَضَيْتُمَا
9	رَضَيْتُمْ
10	رَضَيْتَ
11	رَضَيْتُمَا
12	رَضَيْتُنَّ
13	رَضَيْتَ
14	رَضَيْنَا

First conjugation: It was actually رَضُوا but changed its form due a rule which is called the *edge rule*.

It states that “any كَسْرَة position و (i.e. occurring at the edge of a word) preceded by a

change to ي “ . This rule deals with the concept of ‘ small تَعْلِيل ’ whereby one letter changes to

another but the form of the verb is not disfigured: رَضِيَ still rhymes with سَمِعَ .

Note: this 'small تَعْلِيل' happens in all 14 conjugations for رَضِيَ

Third conjugation: The 3rd conjugation was originally رَضِيُوا (rhyming with سَمِعُوا) which is

hard for pronunciation since the ي is preceded by a ضَمَّة . Moreover, this ي here is then followed by

a و which makes it even harder on the tongue. In this case, the ضَمَّة moved from ي to ض, which lost

it كَسْرَة . The ي is then dropped because it is left with a و which is سَاكِن . The و cannot be

dropped since it is a pronoun (denoting 'they, group of males').

This concludes our discussion of introducing the ماضى for the نَاقِصُ verb. The next post, Insha Allah,

will deal with the مُضَارِع of the نَاقِصُ verb.

Sarf - The Irregular Verb - ناقص - Part 2

Disclaimer: This post is due to a major contribution from Humairah (blogging [here](#)). Any mistakes, of course, are mine.

We have already [discussed](#) the ماضى of the ناقص verb. In this post, Insha Allah, I will discuss the

تعليل patterns for the same and we will see how some conjugations undergo

صحیح counterparts. In the مضارع of the ناقص verb, 6 conjugations do not have تعليل since they rhyme with their

counterparts. These are conjugations number 2,5,6,8,11, and 12 i.e. the 4 duals and the 2 plural

feminines. For example, the set of these 6 conjugations from the يرمى table will rhyme with

يسمع whereas the set of these 6 conjugations in the يرضى table will rhyme with يضرب.

Below, I will give the complete listing of the مضارع for 3 ناقص verbs:

1	يَدْعُوْ	يَرْمِيْ	يَرْضَى
2	يَدْعُوَانِ	يَرْمِيَانِ	يَرْضَيَانِ
3	يَدْعُوْنَ	يَرْمُوْنَ	يَرْضَوْنَ
4	تَدْعُوْ	تَرْمِيْ	تَرْضَى
5	تَدْعُوَانِ	تَرْمِيَانِ	تَرْضَيَانِ
6	يَدْعُوْنَ	يَرْمِيْنَ	يَرْضَيْنِ
7	تَدْعُوْ	تَرْمِيْ	تَرْضَى
8	تَدْعُوَانِ	تَرْمِيَانِ	تَرْضَيَانِ
9	تَدْعُوْنَ	تَرْمُوْنَ	تَرْضَوْنَ
10	تَدْعِيْنَ	تَرْمِيْنَ	تَرْضَيْنِ

11	تَدْعُوَانِ	تَرْمِيَانِ	تَرْضَيَانِ
12	تَدْعُونِ	تَرْمِينِ	تَرْضَيْنِ
13	أَدْعُوْ	أَرْمِيْ	أَرْضِيْ
14	نَدْعُوْ	نَرْمِيْ	نَرْضِيْ

Only the 5 singulars (1,4,7,13,14) and 3,9, and 10 have تَعْلِيل in them. Note that we include conjugation 14 in the singular group since it *looks like* a singular

If you remember, the [edge rule](#) for a نَاقِص verb states that “any لام position و (i.e. occurring at the edge of a word) preceded by a كَسْرَة will change to ي”. However, look at the cases of يَرْضَيَانِ or يَرْضَيْنِ or يَرْضِيَانِ or يَرْضِيْنِ. They all have و at the لام position since we know that the base letters in the يَرْضِيْ table are ر ض and و. Thus the first example should have been يَرْضُوَانِ because the و is *not* preceded by a كَسْرَة. However, it is changing to a ي. On top of this, we have also stated that there is no تَعْلِيل in this conjugation. To address this anomaly we say that since the final form of the verb is still rhyming with its صحيح counter part i.e. يَفْعَلَانِ, therefore there has only been a change of a letter rather than a full blown تَعْلِيل. To explain the change of the letter (i.e. و to ي) we state a rule which deals with a و or ي occurring beyond the third position in a نَاقِص verb. This rule can be named “**Fourth position or beyond rule**” and states that:

If a و comes in the fourth position or later in a word and it is not preceded by a ضَمَّة or a سَاكِن, it changes into a ي.

Having noted this aspect, we now move on to deal with those conjugations which have full تَعْلِيل in them.

First conjugation : In the case of يَدْعُوْ it was actually يَدْعُوْ rhyming with يَنْصُرُ . The final ضَمَّة was awkward on و and was dropped. In the case of يَرْمِيْ this was actually يَرْمِيْ . Again, the ضَمَّة was dropped since it was awkward on the ي . For the case of يَرْضَى the original was يَرْضَوُ . The و is at the fourth position so change it to ي according to the “Fourth position or beyond rule”. This leave us with يَرْضَى which has a ي which is مُتَحَرِّك and is preceded by a فَتْحَة so this is changed to ا according to the [Simple Change to Alif rule](#) , giving us يَرْضَى

Third Conjugation: Here يَدْعُوْنَ was originally يَدْعُوْنَ . The ضَمَّة on the و was dropped which leaves us with two و which are سَاكِن . Thus, one of these و is dropped giving us يَدْعُوْنَ

The above process can actually be encompassed in a two step rule which states that: “Whenever there is a لام position و or ي preceded by a ضَمَّة or a كَسْرَة , make the و or the ي as سَاكِن . Now, if the و or ي is preceded by an appropriate short vowel and followed by an appropriate long vowel (see [here](#) for this discussion) then drop this و or ي.” This rule also takes care of the 9th conjugation of يَدْعُوْ as well as the 10th conjugation of يَرْمِيْ .

For the يَرْضَى table, the third conjugation was originally يَرْضَوْنَ rhyming with يَسْمَعُونَ .

The و was changed (according to the Fourth position rule) to ی since it is preceded by a فَتْحَة giving us يَرْضَيُونُ. Now we have a ی which is مُتَحَرِّكٌ and is preceded by a فَتْحَة so we change it to an ا using the [Simple Change to Alif rule](#) , the introduction of which results in gathering of two ساکن letters. Thus, the ا is dropped, leaving us with يَرْضَوْنَ

10th Conjugation : The starting point for this conjugation was تَنْصُرِينَ rhyming with تَدْعُوْنَ

The كَسْرَة is inappropriate before the و so the كَسْرَة was moved to the letter before it. This resulted in gathering of two ساکن letters. The و was dropped, leaving us with تَدْعِيْنَ. This transformation is governed by the following general rule: “If a و is preceded by a ضَمَّة and followed by a ی , the preceding letter is made ساکن and the vowel on و is transferred to the preceding letter. Then the و changes into a ی and falls off due to gathering to two ساکن letters”

In the case of تَرْمِيْنَ this was originally تَرْمِيْنَ rhyming with تَضْرِبْنَ. The كَسْرَة was inappropriate on the ی so the كَسْرَة was dropped, leaving us with two ساکن letters. Thus, one of the ی is dropped giving us تَرْمِيْنَ.

The 10th conjugation in the يَرْضَى table was originally تَرْضَوْنَ rhyming with تَسْمَعِيْنَ.

The و is changed to ی according to the Fourth position or beyond rule. This leaves us with

تَرْضَيْنَ. Again, one of the ى is dropped due to the gathering of two سَاكِن letters giving us

تَرْضَيْنَ

Almost of these rules can also be applied when constructing the passive conjugations for the مُضَارِع

of the نَاقِص verb. In some future post I will Insha Allah try to list all the rules governing تَعْلِيل. Until

then, hopefully, this introduction will come in handy for the students of Classical Arabic.

Sarf - The rules for تَعْلِيل - A summary of أجوف and ناقص

We already know that there are three letters in the Arabic alphabet which are called حُرُوفٌ عِلَّتْ (or the *weak* letters), namely و and ا and ي. The presence of these letters within the base letters of a verb will cause certain changes to occur which can change the final form of the verb. In this post, Insha Allah, I will list down the rules which deal with تَعْلِيل occurring at the لام position and the ع position of the verb. Most of these rules have already been encountered when we discussed the أجوف and the ناقص verb (discussed [here](#) and [here](#)). Since there are quite a few of these rules, and because we will see many of them in future صَرْف discussions, therefore it is beneficial to list these at one place for reference purposes.

Rules for أجوف:

1. Simple Change to Alif rule: Whenever there is a مُتَحَرِّكٌ weak letter i.e. a واو or a ي preceded by a مَفْتُوح letter, change the واو or ي to ا. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
2. The مِيزَانٌ rule: Any واو which is سَاكِنٌ and is preceded by a كَسْرَةٌ will change to ي. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
3. Whenever the ع position of a passive ماضى is a واو or ي remove the vowel from the letter before it and transfer the كَسْرَةٌ to this letter. See [here](#) for examples of this rule

4. Whenever there is a مُتَحَرِّك weak letter i.e. a واو or a ي preceded by a سَكُون , transfer the vowel from the weak letter to the letter before it. Now, if the vowel being transferred is a فَتْحَة then change this letter to an ١. See [here](#) for examples of this rule

Rules for نَاقِص:

1. The Edge Rule: It states that “any لام position و (i.e. occurring at the *edge* of a word) preceded by a كَسْرَة will change to ى”. This is depicted by the first ماضى conjugation of رَضِيَ which was originally رَضِو. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
2. Fourth Position or Beyond Rule: If a و comes in the fourth position or later in a word and it is not preceded by a ضَمَّة or a سَاكِن, it changes into a ى. See [here](#) for examples of this rule
3. Whenever there is a لام position و or ى preceded by a ضَمَّة or a كَسْرَة, make the و or the ى as سَاكِن. Now, if the و or ى is preceded by an appropriate short vowel and followed by an appropriate long vowel (see [here](#) for this discussion) then drop this و or ى. The change of يَدْعُوْنَ to يَدْعُونَ is handled by this rule
4. If there is a و or ١ or ي at the end of a verb then they are dropped in case of جَزَم. For example, لَمْ يَدْعُوْ which was originally لَمْ يَدْعُ or لَمْ يَرْمِ which was originally لَمْ يَرْمِ

Hopefully this list will come in handy for the students of صَرْف when dealing with أَجَوَف and نَاقِص

verb. Insha Allah, in the future, I will post about other هفت اقسام and their governing rules as well.

**This book is the combined version of the lecture notes
available on:**

<http://sheepoo.wordpress.com/pdf-files/>